

LA Dance Competition & Performance Teams FAQ

HOW DO I BECOME A TEAM MEMBER?

Placement on a LA Dance competition team or performance team is by audition only. Any student who has at least one year of previous dance experience and who is at least four years of age may audition for the teams. However, auditioning does not guarantee that a child will be placed on the team. Auditions are held every year during the spring. The date and time for the audition will be posted at the studio, in the studio newsletter, and on our Facebook page.

Other factors (such as student attendance and whether or not the student's account payments were made in a timely manner during the prior year) will also be taken into consideration during the team selection process.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THE TEAMS BEFORE I AUDITION?

Competition and performance team classes are much more disciplined in nature than the regular recreational classes offered at LA Dance and should only be undertaken by those with the drive and dedication to see it through. These classes represent a much larger commitment (in terms of time and money) on the part of the dancer and their families. Parents and children interested in competition or performance team classes should carefully read and understand the following information before making a final commitment to participate. You will be expected to sign a contract stating your understanding and acceptance of these policies prior to final acceptance into a competition or performance team class.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ARE REQUIRED OF PERFORMANCE TEAM MEMBERS?

- Performance team members must attend dance at least two nights per week. In addition to their performance team class, they also must be enrolled in a Ballet Technique class. The instructor will assign the student to these classes based upon audition results.
- Performance team members are required to participate in LA Dance performances throughout the year (i.e., Treat Street, Christmas Parade, Loose Caboose, etc.).
- Performance team members are required to participate in the Pearl competitions. These competitions are held on Saturdays and generally last from about 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Specific dates and times will be provided as they become available.
- Performance team members are required to attend at least one dance camp/intensive during the summer.
- Performance team members are required to purchase team apparel/gear.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ARE REQUIRED OF COMPETITION TEAM MEMBERS?

- Competition team members must attend dance at least two nights per week. In addition to their competition team class, they also must be enrolled in a Ballet Technique class and a Turns/Leaps/Extensions class. The instructor will assign the student to these classes based upon audition results.
- Competition team members are required to participate in numerous dance competitions/ conventions through the year. These events typically take place on weekends from Friday evening through Sunday evening. These events may take place not only within the state of Mississippi but also in nearby states. Overnight travel is therefore a requirement for participation.
- Competition team members are required to participate in LA Dance performances throughout the year (i.e., Treat Street, Christmas Parade, Loose Caboose, etc.).
- Competition team members are required to participate in the Pearl competitions. These competitions are held on Saturdays and generally last from about 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Specific dates and times will be provided as they become available.
- Competition team members will be expected to participate in extra routines during the recital.
- Competition team members are required to attend extra rehearsals as scheduled by the instructor in order to prepare for upcoming performances/competitions.
- Competition team members are required to attend at least one dance camp/intensive during the summer.
- Competition team members are required to purchase team apparel/gear.

- Competition team members and their families must assist with fundraising efforts throughout the year to help raise money for team activities/events.

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT ATTENDANCE FOR A TEAM MEMBER?

Any student who opts to take part in one of the LA Dance teams **MUST** make the commitment to be in class. Dancers have a LOT to learn in a short amount of time. Even one absence can harm the progress of the entire group!

Unexcused absences are considered unacceptable for competition and performance team students. Just one unexcused absence may result in immediate dismissal from the group. Excused absences must be limited to 1 for every 10 weeks of class. Any more absences than this may result in immediate dismissal from the group. In some cases, you may be able to schedule a private (at an additional cost) to make up an excused absence. Please understand the extra time and dedication which is required for these teams and the fact that routines cannot be properly learned by the entire group when dancers aren't in class!

Also know that extra, mandatory rehearsals may be scheduled at any time throughout the dance year as needed in order to better prepare for upcoming competitions/performances

HOW ARE TEAM MEMBERS EXPECTED TO ACT?

Competition and performance team students should leave their attitudes and problems at the door. As we get deeper into the season and acquire additional, longer rehearsals, it is necessary to remember that we are a family and must all support each other in our journey to accomplish our goals. At competitions/events all students and family members are expected to maintain good attitudes, not only toward each other, but toward all other competitors, instructors, and attendees. There is a zero tolerance policy regarding negative attitudes, behavior, and remarks at any competition/event. Should this policy be violated, the student related to the incident can be pulled from future events or even dismissed completely from the group for the remainder of the year.

In addition, all team members (and their attending family members) are expected to be present for all LA Dance performances during competitions. In other words, if a LA Dance dancer is performing, you are expected to be there to support them!

HOW MUCH WILL ALL OF THIS COST?

Competition and performance team membership requires a larger financial investment on the part of the students' families than normal classes:

- All team members must be enrolled 2-3 classes per week resulting in a higher monthly tuition.
- All team members must purchase team gear every year (usually costing between \$150-\$200).
- All team members must pay registration fees for the required competitions and/or conventions. The Pearl competitions usually cost \$25 per event. Fees for the competition team events will vary based upon the organization sponsoring the competition and whether or not the team member plans on performing a solo in addition to the required group routine(s). Generally, competition team families should expect to have costs of approximately \$200/month during the dance season to cover event fees. This is only an estimation, though, and it is not guaranteed that this will be the amount owed (in addition to regular tuition costs and costume costs). Please do not decide to audition for team membership if you know that meeting these financial obligations isn't possible for your family.
- All team members must be able to cover travel expenses to LA Dance performances and to the required dance competitions. For competition team members, this includes numerous out-of-town events which can require overnight stays.
- Team members (particularly competition team members) will have higher costume expenses than regular dance students as they will have more routines to perform during the recital than non-team students.

Any failure to keep an account current may result in the student being pulled from an event or being dismissed from the group.